

The Ohio/Penn Dx PacketCluster

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3Y0PI, PETER I ISLAND (UPDATE). Last week OPDX forgot to list one of the 3Y0PI operators; Luis, XE1L, should have been included in the list. Thanks to Bill, WA4MCZ, for bringing it to our attention. As this bulletin was being prepared, information from Tony, WA4JQS, by telephone to Ada (Tony's mom), indicated that the 3Y team is now on South Shetland. The team, as of February 25th, are unable to fly out of South Shetlands at the moment due to fog and blizzard. (ed. GEEEE! How much can these guys endure?)

ACTIVITY ON THE SATELLITE (A013). Look for the following stations on A013: 5T5JC - 145.919/2100z, 8P6SM - 145.900/2242z, 9K2WA - 145.891/1602z, 9Y4DG - 145.908/2339z, PY5BYE - 145.915/2310z, UN7CY - 145.937/1527z, VK4ABW - 145.889/0840z, VU2TS - 145.855/1708z and Z21HJ - 145.833/1445Z.

BV9P, PRATAS ISLAND. Word from Martti, OH2BH, is that preparations are proceeding just fine with no problems so far for the upcoming DXpedition. The targeted date is March 16 for 10-days. There are 14 operators scheduled to go, and the group may include limited foreign participation as well. Some detailed information may be released after Martti's visit to Taipei during this coming week.

MORE ON THE VOA STORY ABOUT "BY" OPS. Fred, K3ZO, who has just recently returned from Thailand where he operated as HS0ZAR, had doubts about the Voice of America (VOA) report that all BY hams have been rounded up and sent to labor camps. Fred stated he heard and worked plenty of BAs, BYs and BZs while in Thailand, so he decided to investigate the Voice of America broadcast and found the following information:

Here is the exact VOA text, which was based on a news item that was on the REUTERS news wire on February 16th: "Police in China have cracked down on the country's largest group of amateur radio operators, and have sent three of the group's leaders to labor camps."

The "Official China Business Times Today" (Wed. Feb. 16th) Identified the group as "Radio-Air-Salon", based in Henan Province (BY6). It said police have caught 61 members of the group -- which had effectively taken over some 27 radio channels.

The report said Radio-Air-Salon members often interrupted regular broadcasts with their own conversations and illegally listened in on

restricted frequencies. It said the use of technical equipment to create chaos in the airwaves is a new type of illegal activity.....

Fred comments he has tried to work as many different Chinese stations as possible while he was in Thailand, but he never heard BY6. The ARRL reports that their information shows only one licensed amateur radio station in PRC, club station BY6SRA, licensed to the Shanxi Branch of the China Radio Sports Association (CRSA). CRSA is the IARU member society for China. Fred points out that the VOA broadcast only mentions that three members of one club were sent to "re-education camps", this is a far cry from "ALL BY's". This is a prime example of how RUMORS can spread like wildfires and blow things out of proportion. Also, the press has often referred to all manners of radio hobbyists as "AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS." The group of hobbyists mentioned in the broadcast may be engaging in SWL and CB type activities rather than actual amateur operations. Fred states such activities are widespread in Asia and has experienced pirate "CB" operations on the 40 meter band while operating from HS-land. So in summary, amateur radio is alive and well in PRC. Reports of activity this week by BY1QH on both 40 and 80 meters is proof. Also, Martti, OH2BH, was in Beijing recently and visited the operators and station of BY1PK. Martti stated things were just fine and no one is rounded up in the labor camps. As matter of fact, foreign operators may be licensed in PRC soon. (TNX to K3ZO, N8II and OH2BH)

P5, NORTH KOREA. During Martti's (OH2BH) recent visit to Beijing, where he was involved in some tennis tournament, he was able to communicate with some high level individuals not only from PRC administration but also from P5-land. "We are getting there, sooner or later," states Martti. (Keep Your Fingers Crossed!)

PACIFIC DXPEDITION (KC6/KH2/V63). JR6IQI and JK6UER are spending their honeymoon at various places in the Pacific, and will operate all bands both CW and SSB. Their itinerary is as follows: Belau - March 13-16 as KC6KT and KC6UA; Micronesia (V63) - March 16-18, call unknown; Guam (KH2) - March 18-20, KH2/JK6UER.

SU, EGYPT. The operation by SU2MT in the ARRL CW DX contest was by a West Coast DXer who is presently working in Egypt. More operations are planned for both CW and on the lower bands in order to make Zone 34 more accessible. Activity is also being planned for the ARRL SSB DX Contest on an all band operation for March 5-6.

TM50DAY CANCELLED. Willem, PA3BIZ, informs OPDX that the special event station in Normandy, France to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-DAY as been cancelled. The two Dutch groups who have been planning the operation for more than a year were to be active from June 6-9, 1995. The group was issued the special call sign in July 1993. But since then the French license authorities have withdrawn the call sign stating they made a mistake by giving the group a two digit prefix. Meanwhile, there is word that the French operators might be organizing a special event station.

FAX YOUR DX INFORMATION NOW! Faxing is available Monday/Wednesday/Friday

from 0430 to 2330z only. The number is 216-237-8208 and the FAX card is sharing the same phone line as BARF-80 BBS using a data/fax/phone switch.

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